

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 311357
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 OES-06 L-03 ISO-00 SAL-01 DLOS-06 IO-13 SS-15
EB-07 H-01 INR-07 SP-02 /072 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:JETHYDEN:FBL
APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS
OES/FA:BHALLMAN (PHONE)
L:MBFELDMAN (PHONE)
-----280031Z 004803 /70
R 272243Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 311357

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CFED, EFIS, BF, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S COMMENTS ON IRS AND FISHERIES
BOUNDARIES

1. BAHAMIAN AMBASSADOR JOHNSON VISITED DEPARTMENT
DECEMBER 17 TO INTRODUCE DEPUTY PERMREP DAVIDSON HEPBURN,
WHO IS JOHNSON'S DEPUTY IN NEW YORK AND HANDLES DAY-TO-
DAY BAHAMIAN BUSINESS AT UN.

2. IN GENERAL REVIEW OF US/BAHAMIAN RELATIONS, JOHNSON
REFERRED TO GCOB DIFFICULTIES WITH US LAW ENFORCEMENT
AGENCIES, AND SPECIFICALLY IRS, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN
THAT US AGENCIES KEEP IN MIND THAT THE BAHAMAS IS AN
INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN NATION WHOSE LAWS MUST BE RESPECTED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 311357

WITHIN THE BAHAMAS. REFERRING TO ATTEMPTS BY IRS TO
PURSUE TAX AVOIDERS AND EVADERS IN BAHAMAS, JOHNSON
SAID US AGENCIES MUST REALIZE THAT NATIONAL LAWS, SUCH
AS US TAX LAWS, COULD NOT BE ENFORCED OUTSIDE NATIONAL
BOUNDARIES. DEPTOFF (THYDEN) REMARKED THAT USG IS
PLEASED WITH THE COOPERATION WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE

GCOB DURING THE PAST YEAR. WE WOULD WISH THE GCOB TO UNDERSTAND THAT THESE INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVE LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY OWED TO THE USG IN TAXES AND THERE WOULD BE A CONTINUING NEED FOR COOPERATION IN THIS AREA.

3. JOHNSON SAID HE HAD SEEN A COPY OF DRAFT BAHAMIAN LEGISLATION ON FISHERIES JURISDICTION. HE THOUGHT THE US WOULD HAVE NO SERIOUS DIFFICULTY WITH THEIR LAW BECAUSE IT WOULD BE BASICALLY AN ADAPTATION OF THE US FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION LAW. JOHNSON ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS NOT SURE IF THE BAHAMIAN LAW WOULD INCORPORATE SOME FEATURES OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, AS WELL AS FISHERIES. HE OFFERED THE PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE GCOB WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH ARCHIPELAGO PRIOR TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE GENERAL LOS NEGOTIATIONS. ONCE THE GOVERNMENT MADE UP ITS MIND TO PROCEED AND HAD A FINISHED DRAFT, THE BILL COULD BE PASSED IN TWO OR THREE DAYS.

4. JOHNSON REGRETTED THE BAHAMAS' INABILITY TO PREPARE ADEQUATELY FOR SUCH NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS NO OFFICIAL MAP OF THE BAHAMAS WHICH THEY CAN USE FOR DRAWING BOUNDARY LINES. THIS WOULD BE A PROBLEM IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING FISHERIES, SEABED RESOURCES OR BOUNDARIES.

5. COMMENT: THE PURPOSE OF AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S CALL WAS TO INTRODUCE HEPBURN AND TO DISCUSS PERSONAL PROBLEMS INVOLVING JOHNSON'S SON. COMMENTS RELATED ABOVE WERE MADE IN THE COURSE OF INFORMAL CONVERSATION AND SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 311357

PROBABLY BE REGARDED AS PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS. ANY BAHAMIAN LEGISLATION ON FISHERIES OR LOS-RELATED ISSUES WOULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN DETERMINING USG STRATEGY FOR CONSULTATIONS OR NEGOTIATIONS WITH GCOB. ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN DISCREETLY OBTAIN REGARDING GCOB INTENTIONS AND DRAFT LEGISLATION WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL.

ROBINSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TAX COLLECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE311357
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JETHYDEN:FBL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760473-0471
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761212/aaaaajxh.tel
Line Count: 105
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by saccheem>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S COMMENTS ON IRS AND FISHERIES BOUNDARIES
TAGS: CFED, EFIS, BF, US, IRS
To: NASSAU
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006